

BULLETIN

OF THE

BROOKLYN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VOL. XLV

APRIL, 1950

No. 2

A NEW SPECIES OF PSEUDOGAURAX FROM FLORIDA (DIPTERA, CHLOROPIDAE).

By CURTIS W. SABROSKY, Washington, D. C.

Up to the present time only two species of the genus *Pseudogaurax* Malloch, the widely recorded *anchora* Loew and *signatus* Coq., have been known from the United States and Canada. The larvae of both species are egg predators, especially in the egg sacs of spiders, *signatus* being commonly reared from the cocoons of the black widow spider. The genus is much better represented in Latin America, where about two dozen species are known.

During a recent trip to the Everglades National Park, the writer collected a new and strikingly distinct species while beating low shrubs back of the beach on Cape Sable, near the southern tip of Florida.

The color pattern and proportions of mesonotum and scutellum are important specific characteristics, and these have been figured (Fig. 1). For similar figures of seven other species of the genus, including the North American *anchora* and *signatus* the reader is referred to Hall (1937, Jour. Wash. Acad. Sci. 27: 255-261).

Pseudogaurax floridensis n. sp.

Male, female: Yellow, only the small ocellar tubercle, short arista, lateral stripes on mesonotum as figured, metapleuron and extreme sides of metanotum, three incomplete stripes on abdomen, and a spot on hind tibia at base of the oval sensory area, black; antenna deep yellow; lower face and cheeks whitish; median mesonotal stripe reddish; mesopleural and sternopleural spots reddish to light brown; abdomen with lateral stripes along segments one through four but absent from five, the median stripe distinct on segments four and five but faint on three and absent anteriorly.

A typical *Pseudogaurax*, with the generic characters cited by

Hall (l.c., p. 257); width of front at vertex approximately three-fourths its own length and .36-.37 times the width of the head; frontal triangle smooth and polished, not pollinose, extending slightly less than three-fifths the length of the front; arista notably short for the genus, only 1.2 times the length of the third antennal segment; proportionate length to width of mesonotum as 28:25, and of scutellum as 11:11, the outline of the latter as viewed from above somewhat rounded, leaving the impression that the scutellum is shorter and more rounded than usual in the genus; marginal cell not conspicuously broadened as is usually the case; second costal sector only slightly longer than the third sector, by about 1.3 times. Length, 2 mm.



Fig. 1. Mesonotum and scutellum, dorsal aspect, of *Pseudogaurax floridensis* n. sp.

Holotype male, allotype, and nine paratypes (3 males, 6 females), Middle Cape of Cape Sable, Florida, December 18, 1949 (C. W. Sabrosky); two paratypes (male, female), same data (G. S. Walley). Type and allotype deposited in the U. S. National Museum, Type No. 59419, paratypes in the author's collection and the Canadian National Collection, Ottawa.

The color pattern will separate the species from any other known in this hemisphere, particularly from the Nearctic *signatus* and *anchora* which have a median black stripe on the scutellum, the latter also having a distinctive anchor-shaped black spot formed by a broad median mesonotal stripe with lateral extensions anteriorly.